

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROCK PORT MAN ADMITS FALSIFYING FORMS TO RECEIVE WAGE WHILE ALSO RECEIVING DISABILITY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Roseann Ketchmark, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Rock Port, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to causing his employer to falsify information on employment forms that enabled him to illegally continue receiving disability benefits while he was also receiving a regular wage.

Harvey Dean Hurst, 47, of Rock Port, pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to charges contained in a May 17, 2005, federal indictment.

Hurst, a recipient of disability benefits since 1993, became employed by Brown's Agri-Services, Inc., in March 2000. At the time of his initial employment, Ketchmark said, **Hurst** asked the owner of the company to hire him under his wife's name and Social Security number. **Hurst** admitted that he was concealing his employment with the company to enable him continue receiving Social Security Administration disability benefits.

By pleading guilty, **Hurst** admitted that he caused the owner of Brown's Agri-Services to falsely report on a Form SSA-L725 that wages were paid to his wife and not him during calendar years 2000, 2001 and 2002. The total loss sustained by the Social Security Administration during that time period was \$45,820.40, Ketchmark said.

Under federal statutes, Ketchmark said, **Hurst** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Daniel Stewart. It was investigated by the Social Security Administration – Office of Inspector General.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow